

Procedures for Processing Loblolly Pine by Weight

Loblolly pine seedlings are processed and packaged in the following manner.

To determine proper weight to use: The Contractor's crew will count out seedlings into groups of 10 and place on conveyor after removing seedlings that are too small, damaged or diseased. The seedlings will be grouped into bundles of 50 seedlings and a rubber band placed around the seedlings. Groups of 500 seedlings will then be weighed and the weights recorded. At least ten to twenty or more of the packages of 500 will be done to get a consistent weight that will ensure that the right number of seedlings are in each bundle. This process will continue until VDOF is satisfied that a proper weight is calculated. This process will be repeated when seedlings from different fields are brought in; weather conditions such as rain change the weights etc. VDOF will provide personnel to count packages all through the day to ensure that the weights being used are still valid.

Canvas bundles of unprocessed seedlings are brought in to grading room and placed near tables for use by the contractor's employees. The contractor's employees will sort through the seedlings and remove all seedlings that are less than 1/8" at the root collar. Measuring devices are provided by VDOF at each table for each person to use. Any damaged or diseased seedlings are removed and these cull seedlings are discarded. Any excess soil is to be gently removed from the roots by shaking or tapping against the grading table. Root collars are aligned evenly so that dipping of the seedlings in kaolin clay slurry is uniform. This also allows for neater bundles.

Approximately 50 seedlings, roughly a large hand full, are then laid on the conveyor. Each group of seedlings will have a rubber band placed around them and directed to the seedling box at the end of the table. The contractor will then place enough of the bundles on the scale to achieve the desired weight. Seedlings will be weighed in quantities of 500 and then placed in boxes at the packing circle. When two groups of 500 are done, the person dipping the seedlings shall begin the packaging process.

The seedlings are to be dipped in the kaolin clay slurry solution deep enough to ensure that all seedling roots are coated. Excess clay is shaken off and the seedlings are then packed in waterproof paper with an absorbent lining. The seedlings are then passed on around the packing circle to be strapped. A strap will be placed on each end about 3" from the end of the veneer. The strap should be applied tight enough that there is no danger of seedlings slipping out of the end of the bundles. An appropriate code provided by DOF is then written on the bundle. The bundles are then placed in seedling boxes or on jarke racks in numbers determined by VDOF grading room supervisor.

Canvas wrappers are to be rolled up by the contractor with the hooks in the middle of each roll. Nine rolled up wrappers are placed in one unrolled wrapper that is then wrapped around the pile and then hooked giving 10 wrappers per roll.

A count of +/- 10% of the target (1000) must be maintained for the packages.

Minimum Number of Employees Required:

Garland Gray Forestry CenterJanuary 5 through January 31..... 12 Employees
Garland Gray Forestry CenterFebruary 1 through Completion of Job 15 Employees

Augusta Forestry Center.....January 19 through January 31..... 12 Employees
Augusta Forestry Center.....February 1 through Completion of Job 15 Employees

Counting and Processing the Following Species:**Eastern White Pine, Norway Spruce, Scotch and Loblolly Pines**

Eastern White Pine is counted and culled in the same manner and culling tolerances as loblolly pine. Individual graders are supplied with canvas field packed bundles of ungraded seedlings. Their job is to count ten (10) acceptable seedlings with a root collar diameter, 1/8" or greater and at least 4" of top. Diseased or damaged seedlings and soil from the roots are discarded. Groups of ten (10) graded trees are placed on a conveyor belt after the root collars are aligned. Bundles of ten (10) are not to be placed on top of another bundle of ten (10).

If it is determined seedlings are too large to package in 500's, the seedlings will be counted in groups of 5, grouped into bundles of 25 with a total of 250 placed in each package.

These, groups of ten, are grouped into bundles of fifty (50) by "tiers", a #64 rubber band applied. All the root collars are to be kept aligned.

The bundles of 50 are root pruned, with a paper style cutter, for a taproot and lateral roots of not less than 5" or no greater than 7".

The bundles of fifty (50) seedlings are then dipped in a kaolin clay slurry solution to coat the entire root system. The entire root system of all dipped seedlings must be dipped completely so that all roots are coated with clay solution. Any excess clay solution is shaken off and the seedlings are then packed in waterproof paper with an absorbent lining. Count must be 10 bundles of 50 for 500 seedlings per package. Paper is folded over and veneer strips placed on top and bottom of the bundle. The veneer strips are marked with the appropriate code markings. The bundles of 500 are strapped tightly so no seedlings can come free. Straps are to be placed on both ends of the bundle approximately 3" in from the end of the veneer.

Seedling packages are arranged in boxes in lots of 10.

A count of +/- 5.0% of 500 trees must be maintained for graded and culled packages.

Hardwoods

Smaller quantities of a wide variety of oaks, dogwoods, ash, etc. are counted into groups of 5 or 10 and placed on conveyor; some are tied with rubber bands into groups of 25 or 50 seedlings. Larger varieties are tied with string into groups of 25 or 50. The seedlings are then dipped and strapped into packages ranging in size from 100 to 500 seedlings or placed loose into boxes (more likely).

Some culling of small or diseased seedlings is involved. Most are culled by height which varies slightly for some species.